

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Windham Regional Commission, VT

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Windham Regional Commission for a Brownfields Pilot. Located in the southeast corner of Vermont, the Windham Region consists of 27 towns in Windham, Bennington, and Windsor Counties. Once a thriving industrial and transportation hub, this area is now plagued with abandoned or underused industrial properties, which remain underused because of real or perceived environmental contamination. Over the years, local industrial operations closed due to a variety of factors, including technological change, a reduced need to be near railroad and/or water resources, and market changes. As manufacturing waned, employment in the region made a gradual shift toward the service industries, many of which pay far lower wage rates. Of the total population, 11.6 percent live below the poverty level. Because these properties are located in traditionally commercial areas, their redevelopment and reuse will stimulate economic renewal and growth of the entire region.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Windham Regional Commission is to redevelop abandoned and underused brownfields in the Pilot area to aid and stimulate economic activity in

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Windham Regional
Commission, VT*

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Windham Regional Commission Pilot will target brownfields properties in the Windham Region for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment.

Contacts:

Windham Regional
Commission
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Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnfl/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

the traditional commercial downtowns and village centers. The Pilot's primary objective is to target brownfields properties in the Windham Region for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment. Pilot funds will be used to establish a steering committee that will develop site selection criteria, as well as identify and prioritize brownfields sites throughout the region. The Pilot will conduct site assessments on targeted sites. In addition, the Pilot will solicit community involvement and assist with the development of cost-effective solutions, financing strategies, and implementation measures for the redevelopment at targeted sites.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Establishing a steering committee;
- Developing site selection criteria;
- Identifying and targeting brownfields sites for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment using site selection criteria;
- Conducting Phase I, II, and III site assessments at targeted properties;
- Conducting community outreach and soliciting community involvement in the selection of potential sites and in the reuse options; and
- Developing cost-effective solutions, financing strategies, and implementation measures for the redevelopment at targeted sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.